

The Board of Selectmen held a Neighborhood Meeting on Monday, October 4, 2010, 7:00 p.m., at the Great Meadow Hall in the Carl J. Shapiro Community Center at New Bridge on the Charles, Dedham, MA. Present were:

Sarah MacDonald  
James A. MacDonald  
Carmen Dellolacono  
Michael L. Butler

Selectman Paul Reynolds was out of Town this evening and was unable to attend the meeting.

Ms. MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

#### **SIGNING OF DEDHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Police Officers' Representatives were: Collin O'Sullivan, Dave Chambers Daniel Panciocco and Attorney Scott Dunlap.

Mr. MacDonald made a motion to ratify the Memorandum of Understandings; seconded by Mr. Dellolacono. **On the Vote:** Ms. MacDonald, yes; Mr. MacDonald, yes; Mr. Butler, yes; and Mr. Dellolacono, yes. (Mr. Reynolds was not present and did not vote on this item.)

At the conclusion of the vote, the police representatives signed the Memorandum of Understanding and also the Board of Selectmen signed the Memorandum of Understanding.

#### **TOWN HALL TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING PRECINCTS 1 & 2**

Mr. MacDonald welcomed everyone and explained that this was the third year the Board of Selectmen have hosted the Neighborhood Meetings. Mr. MacDonald gave an overview relative to the Board's Fresh Ideas connection and also Town Works located on the Town of Dedham's Website. He welcomed New Bridge residents and neighbors. He reminded all not to forget to vote.

Mr. MacDonald introduced William Keegan, Town Administrator. Mr. Keegan welcomed all and thanked Hebrew Senior Life for the invitation to use their facility this evening. Mr. Keegan gave an overview of his position and introduced the Department Heads. Present were: Laura Leventhal, COA Director, Police Chief Michael D'Entremont, Mariellen Murphy, Finance Director, Joseph Flanagan, DPW Director, Cathy Cardinale, BOH Director, Nancy Baker, Asst. Town Administrator, Virginia LeClair, Environmental Coordinator, Robin Reyes, Finance Director, Fire Chief William Cullinane, Ken Cimen, Building Commissioner, Karen O'Connell, Economic Development Director and Bill Ralph, Asst. Finance Director.

Mr. MacDonald introduced the Board of Selectmen to the audience. He commented that Selectmen Reynolds was out of town this evening and could not attend. He also introduced to the audience-- Marie Rizzo, Asst. to Administration, Jim Maher, Parks and Recreation Commissioner, Jim Sullivan, Building Inspector and Bob Aldous, Planning Board.

Mr. Keegan began the discussion by informing all that the Avery School is underway and the fields are being built. He went on to say that, going forward, he would like to focus on a proper Senior Center for the residents—presently, there is work a foot to build a new center. Mr. Keegan informed all that there was a meeting last week to discuss the Senior Center and process set up with those involved in this

effort. Mr. Keegan stated that he believes that the need is still there for a Senior Center. He commented that Laura Leventhal, COA Director, is working on a Strategic Plan to access the seniors needs and also what the community will support-- Ms. Leventhal is focusing on the how and when.

Mr. Keegan opened up the discussion to the audience—

Marv Ingle, Chickering Road Resident, had concerns relative to the condition and patches on Highland Avenue. He went on to say that there are two schools in the area and also Legacy Place traffic. Residents use the street as a walkway and for jogging. He thought that the street was a disgrace and not safe. Mr. Flanagan informed Mr. Ingle that Highland Avenue is on the Road Management Plan and is first on the list to be repaved next year—July 1, 2011. Mr. Flanagan went on to say that Norfolk County is conducting a Sidewalk Survey and the results are not back yet.

Mary Keough, 8 Merrill Avenue Resident—Mrs. Keough informed all that she has concerns relative to two areas on Route 135 near Hale Drive that are collecting water. She mentioned another drainage issue in an area in front of the SMA property—Mrs. Keough informed all that leaves collect in this area when it is snowing or raining. Mr. Flanagan informed all that this is a maintenance matter-- his department cleans out the basins only.

Mark Cutler, 220 Robert Road Resident—Mr. Cutler had questions relative to the Add-a-Lane Project and barrier. He asked the staff to speak about the construction schedule and noise barrier behind his home on Robert Road. Mr. Flanagan informed him that he recently spoke with Mass Highway and he will also meet with McCourt Construction next week. He went on to say that as yet, there are no answers relative to the time lines. Mr. Flanagan assured the resident that once he has more information, he will get back with him. Mr. Keegan added that he was recently notified by the State that the next phase of construction/schedule will start soon.

On another matter, Mr. MacDonald asked Mr. Flanagan what the status is relative to the Ames Street Bridge. Mr. Flanagan informed him that construction is moving ahead and that the lane will be moved over on November 15, 2010.

Tim Ending, 199 Court Street Resident—Mr. Ending had issues with the mosquitoes in his neighborhood. Mr. Flanagan suggested he call the Norfolk County Mosquito Control and ask when they plan to spray the area. Following up with cleanup matters—Virginia LeClair informed all that the Town has neighborhood cleanups in the spring organized through Dedham Civic Pride and the Mother Brook Neighborhood Association. She went on to say that if anyone is interested in organizing a cleanup she would assist and get the word out to the newspapers and volunteers. Mr. MacDonald added that government can do a lot; however, neighbors can do more. He mentioned that Town staff will assist the community relative to setting up neighborhood cleanups.

Gene Kabik, School Street Resident—Mr. Kabik had an issue with the Traffic Lights located at Washington, Court and Highland Streets. He asked if the lights could be readjusted and fixed to control the rush hour traffic. He went on to say that something should be done to move vehicles through within a reasonable time. Mr. Flanagan informed Mr. Kabik that the State has jurisdiction over the lights in this location. Additionally, Mr. Flanagan notified the State and asked them to look into this matter.

Sue Hicks, 20 Highland Street Resident—Ms. Hicks had questions relative to the Highland Street sidewalks. Mr. Flanagan informed her that the matter is still with the Norfolk County Surveyors. Ms.

Hicks asked the time line relative to the Ames Street Bridge. Mr. Flanagan informed her that it is anticipated that the bridge will be finished in the spring, 2012.

At the conclusion of Ms. Hick's questions, Mr. Keegan introduced Ms. Hicks as the Co-Chairman of the Dedham Civic Pride Committee and publically thanked her for her dedication to the committee and service to the Town of Dedham.

Robert Mendes, Robert Road Resident—Mr. Mendes had concerns with the Traffic Lights at the intersection of Providence Highway and Elm Street. He asked the staff to take a good look at the cycling of the lights.

Florence Preisler, 46 Country Club Road Resident—Ms. Preisler asked if the Town is considering construction of sewers, sidewalks and barriers on her street. Mr. Flanagan informed her that there were no plans to construct sidewalks and sewers on Country Club Road. Relative to the sound barrier, Mr. MacDonald informed Ms. Preisler that the staff would forward her request to State Representative Paul McMurtry's office for follow up.

Kathleen McNeeley, 33 East Riverside Drive Resident—Ms. McNeeley complimented the fine work of Chief D'Entremont and Dedham Police Department on a recent drug raid in her neighborhood. Ms. McNeeley went on to say that over the past five years, this is the third drug raid. Ms. McNeeley felt that the neighborhood was all at risk-- she asked what homeowners should do to protect themselves and the community. Ms. McNeeley commended the Dedham Police Department for their efforts; however, she was concerned that drugs were coming into this area in a quick pace.

Chief D'Entremont informed all that Detective Walsh has done a lot of work in the neighborhood. Chief asked the neighbors to keep their eyes open; and if they see any unusual action, i.e., hand to hand transactions and plate numbers, they should notify the Dedham Police Department. Chief D'Entremont informed all that the Manor Section of Dedham has recently formed a Neighborhood Watch Group. Additionally, Detective Mahoney has been working with the Manor Residents--the group is doing a fantastic job. Chief went on to say that the neighbors are keeping their eyes open; and if a vehicle is spotted that does not belong in the neighborhood, they contact the Police Department.

Ms. MacDonald informed all that the Board of Selectmen is very aware of the increasing Drug Abuse in the community and is looking into options for the Police Department to explore. Ms. MacDonald went on to say that the Board is looking into formal Neighbor Watch Programs town wide.

Relative to the Riverdale raids, Ms. McNeeley informed all that the three drug raids noted were all from the same house. Ms. McNeeley asked if the property owner can be held responsible. Chief D'Entremont commented that the problems are deep and there is a rental arrangement with respect to the property. He went on to say that Detective Walsh is looking at a higher level. Chief D'Entremont commented that the property owner stated that he does not know anything about drugs.

Riverdale Resident, No name—Resident indicated that he did not feel safe in his home. He asked that something be done as soon as possible with the residents of the two- family house.

Russell Stamm, 143 Rosemary Road Resident—Mr. Stamm asked the status of the Shell Station Property located at the intersection of Bridge Street and Needham Street. Bob Aldous, Planning Board Member, explained that there are problems relative to this development. First, the property is divided into two

kinds of land—business/residential. Second, the plans are coming along; however, there are concerns that a Fire Truck will not be able to reach a second-story building and the street entrances and exits needed changes so that they work properly. Mr. Aldous informed all that the property owner is currently working on these concerns with the Fire Department.

Relative to a previously discussed concern (Elm/Washington Streets)—Mr. Aldous acknowledged that the situation at the lights is horrendous; however, the Planning Board is working to straighten out this situation with the State and Legacy Place. Mr. Aldous went on to say that his Board is hoping for a decent ending going forward.

Rita Contos, Country Club Road Resident—Ms. Contos asked for a breakdown relative to the allocation of residential/corporate taxes and Rainy Day Fund. Mr. Reyes explained that the Town has developed a plan for reserves. A few items he discussed were the Stabilization Fund, OPEB Liability and Major Facilities Fund. (The newer Major Facilities Fund is money collected from a percentage of meals and hotel taxes. These funds are not added to the tax base--the intent is to collect and save funds for use in the construction/renovation of future Town facilities. Mr. Reyes went on to say that having these reserves has helped the Town receive its very good rating of AA+ and this rating gives the Town the opportunity to borrow at good, advantageous rates.

Relative to Legacy Place, Mr. Reyes explained that Legacy Place is very influential in the tax budget and that the Town is on target to collect 2 million dollars from Legacy Place this year. He also mentioned that these funds will cover the State's shortfall to the Town this year-- Legacy was the Town's buffer. Going forward, if the State comes back to prior levels, the Town will eventually use the revenues for Town needs. Mr. Reyes informed all that the Town cut back spending early. Additionally, employees were not cut and Town services are the same as in the past. Mr. Reyes also mentioned that Town employees have shared in the burden—there were no increase in the employees' contracts for year one and slight increases in the employees contracts for the remaining two years.

Mr. Reyes informed all that split commercial/residential is now stabilized and it should move in concert going forward. Mr. Reyes spoke briefly relative to the Employee Pension System. He commented that there are plans going forward with the new employees; however, he did not know if true reform will happen—the State has a number of proposals and it will take a while. Mr. Reyes thought that if changes were to happen, it will only be relative to the new entrances into the system. Mr. MacDonald added that presently, employees' participation is 11% into the Contributory System. In the future, new employees will fully fund their pensions themselves. Mr. MacDonald commented that there have been some changes on the State level; however, the unfunded liability is large. Mr. MacDonald informed all that the average employee pension is \$26,000.

Mary Jo Cutter, Robert Road Resident—Ms. Cutter asked the staff if there was a Flood Plan Map. Mr. Cimeno informed her that plan was adopted at the last Town Meeting and is presently at the Attorney General Office for approval.

Dr. Leo Skopack, New Bridge on the Charles Resident—Dr. Skopack is concerned with health care coverage in the Dedham community and across the State. Dr. Skopack asked Mr. Keegan if there has been an effort to place the Town on the GIC System to cut down on costs. Mr. Keegan informed all that GIC stands for (General Government Insurance). He went on to say that not every city and town is on the GIC. Mr. Keegan informed all that Dedham has been part of the West Suburban Health Group since 1990. Additionally, this is a very good cost-savings group and West Suburban is very stable. Additionally, the Town evaluates the program month by month—the program has served Dedham well.

Dr. Skopack mentioned to the audience and staff that the GIC is a ballot incentive this year. He went on to say that this type of program should reduce the overall cost to healthcare statewide.

Fred Martin, 50 Village Avenue Resident—Mr. Martin requested sidewalks on the bridge near the Town Common (Pumping Station). Mr. Martin thought sidewalks would be a fine Town improvement if they could be constructed on both sides. Mr. MacDonald informed Mr. Martin that the Board of Selectmen sent a letter to the State. He went on to say that State sidewalks were not there prior; however, the Board would like to improve the area. Mr. Flanagan added that he believes the sidewalk was not real. Mr. Martin asked if the Town could acquire the bridge from the State. Mr. Flanagan informed him that there are no plans for the Town to acquire the bridge.

Carl, School Master Resident—Resident thanked the Department Heads and Board of Selectmen for the good leadership of the Town considering other Towns around the Commonwealth are struggling.

Dianna Michael, Cunningham Road Resident—Ms. Michael had concerns with the rotary on Needham Street. She asked what the Town could do to make it safer—she felt it was more of a hazard than a help. Mr. Flanagan suggested trimming back the bushes and placing more Slow Down Signs. Mr. Flanagan felt that vehicles should slow down and that he has signs placed in the appropriate areas. Ms. Michael asked if a Stop Sign could be placed in that location. Mr. Flanagan informed all that the location does not meet the standard for a Stop Sign. Ms. Michael commented that the rotary is a detriment to the residents. Mr. Keegan recommended that people travelling that area slow down and that the rotary does, in fact, work and slows down the traffic.

Jane Baker, Dedham Resident, thanked the Board, Town Staff and Hebrew Senior Life for their hospitality this evening.

Mr. Keegan thanked the Department Heads, Leaders of the Town and dedicated staff for their participation this evening. Mr. MacDonald thanked everyone for attending the Neighborhood Meeting this evening and wished all a good night.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

This is to certify that the above is a true and accurate record of the Minutes of the meeting held on October 4, 2010, which Minutes were approved on April 14, 2011.

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Sarah A. MacDonald, Chairman

